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Resumed organizational session for 1996
2 and 3 May 1996
Agenda item 2

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Note verbale dated 11 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to announce that the Government of Poland has decided to present its candidature for membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Poland attaches great importance to the work of the Executive Committee. After the democratic transformation in 1989, national procedures and institutions relating to refugees and asylum seekers were established in Poland. Since then, in cooperation with the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, Vienna and Warsaw, Poland has been participating actively in solving the problems of people in need of protection and assistance.

Poland ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. The Government of Poland has been fully committed to the above-mentioned Convention, as well as to other relevant international legal instruments concerning refugees, and has thereby demonstrated its willingness to deal with this problem in a humanitarian and respectful manner.

Poland, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, wishes to use its experience and knowledge of the region in making a valuable and constructive contribution to the work of the Organization.

The Government of Poland would therefore greatly appreciate the Secretary-General transmitting the present note to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for 1996.

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Note verbale dated 12 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note of 28 February 1996. The Permanent Representative hereby wishes to tender the formal application of the Government of South Africa for admission to membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

South Africa attaches great importance to the protection of refugees and the promotion of their rights, and views the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as an important platform for enhancing international cooperation in the protection of refugees. The Government of South Africa believes that it can play an important role in this field as it has a long-standing relationship with UNHCR. As the question of refugees is a major problem in Africa, the Government of South Africa feels it could play a role in solving this problem.

The Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations wishes to request that the present application for membership be considered under the relevant provisions and would be grateful if it could be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

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